

Minutes of the Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 10th July 2024 at Greenstead Green Village Hall.

These are draft minutes and yet to be agreed by the Parish Council.

Present.

Cllr. Paul Foster. Chairman.

Cllr. Derek Hambling

Cllr. Ian Pleasance

Cllr. Derek Mason. Vice-Chairman.

Cllr. Jeremy Siggers

Cllr. Gemma Todd.

Amanda Degnan – Clerk to the Parish Council.

County Cllr. Chris Siddall

10 Members of the public

71/24 Apologies for absence. Apologies were received and noted from District Cllr. Peter Schwier. There were no apologies from Cllr. Butler.

72/24 Declarations of interest. To declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct. None were declared.

73/24 Minutes: Item 1: To approve the minutes of the AGM held in May. Item 2: To approve the minutes of the May ordinary meeting. Items 1 and 2 were taken together. The minutes of the previous meetings held in May 2024 were duly approved. Proposed Cllr. Foster, seconded Cllr. Mason. Approved

Item 3: Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meetings that are not on the agenda. All matters arising were on the agenda. **Gosfield School hedges:** The Clerk had contacted the school about the hedges, and they had now been cut.

74/24 County Councillor's report. County Cllr. Chris Siddall reminded councillors about the County Councillor Pothole scheme which had now been extended to pavements as well. The potholes must fit Essex County Council (ECC) Highways criteria for repairs. The money for the scheme had come from the cancelled Central Government HS2 railway project. He suggested councillors put together a list with photos and 'What3Words' locations and send to him. There were no questions for Cllr. Siddall and he was thanked for his update by the Chairman Cllr. Foster.

75/24 District Councillor's report. In the absence of District Cllr. Schwier there was no update.

76/24 Finance: Item 1: To agree to continue membership of RCCE at £44.10 (£8.70 less than last year discounted due to a change in the membership year). Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Todd. All agreed.

Item 2: To agree to the Clerk adding £10.00 to the new phone account. Clerk. It was decided to increase the top up to £15.00 and to approve the top up to the phone account. Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Todd. All agreed. **Action:** Clerk

Item 3: To agree the accounts for payment. These were circulated prior to the meeting. Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Mason. All agreed. The accounts for payment were duly approved.

Method		Payee	Amount	Reason
SO		Mrs A J Degnan	£362.00	June salary pd 15/6/24
SO		Mrs A J Degnan	£362.00	July Salary pd 15/7/24
BACS		Village Hall	£20.00	hall rental
BACS		Mrs A J Degnan	£11.80	expenses
Card		Ionos	£6.00	website 17/5/24
BACS		Playsafety	£108.00	RoSPA inspection pd 7/6/24
Card		Ionos	£6.00	website 17/6/24
Card		Three	£5.00	phone top-up 17/5/24
Card		Malwarebytes	£9.00	virus protector 24 months
BACS		M D Landscapes	£1,274.40	grass cutting March, April, May, June
BACS		HMRC	£13.00	Income tax
BACS		D M Payroll	£60.00	Payroll
BACS		D.Mason	£495.14	welding other repairs to play equipment
BACS		The Maurice Rowson Hall	£7.00	meeting room
BACS		RCCE	£44.10	membership
		Total payments for July 2024	£2,783.44	

77/24 Planning and Braintree District Council (BDC) Planning applications..

Item 1: Planning Applications: APPLICATION NO : 23/02106/S106A DESCRIPTION : REVISED MODIFICATION Application made under Section 106A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) and the Town and Country Planning (Modification and Discharge of Planning Obligations) Regulations 1992 (as amended) - Remove the weight restriction of the aircraft operating from the site and replace this with a requirement that aircraft operating from the site comply with specified CAA certified noise levels. LOCATION : Essex & Herts Air Ambulance Trust, Land Opposite The Flying School The Airfield Earls Colne Essex. The Chairman Cllr. Foster adjourned the meeting to allow Derek Wickes to address the Parish Council. He provided information on the application and why he had concerns regarding it particularly the noise levels. After some discussion Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council made the following response 'No Objection.' Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Mason. Cllr. Pleasance abstained. All agreed with one abstention.

Re-Consultation on Application Number 23/00929/FUL, Land Off Bournebridge Hill Greenstead Green Essex. Proposal Full planning permission for the construction of 2no. cycle and pedestrian links. Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council made the following response 'No Objection.' Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Mason. All agreed.

Any other Planning Applications received after the agenda was published. At the Chairmans discretion. There were no other planning applications to be discussed.

Item 2: Appeal: Halstead Hall: TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

APPEAL UNDER SECTION 78 Site Address: Halstead Hall Braintree Road Greenstead Green Essex CO9 1SL Description of Development: Outline application for the erection of 34 dwellings (including 24 market units and 10 social affordable units) with permission sought for access and layout. Planning Application Ref: 22/03366/OUT Appellant's Name: Mr R Catchpole Planning Inspectorate Ref: APP/Z1510/W/24/3341618 Appeal Start Date: 31 May 2024. **To consider if the Parish Council would like to attend the appeal on Thursday 1st August 2024.** This appeal was due to Braintree District Council (BDC) failing to make a decision within the necessary time period. The Parish Council had raised 'No Objection' to this application in 2023. The Chairman Cllr. Foster encouraged residents and Councillors to attend the hearing.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 APPEAL UNDER SECTION 78 Site Address: Halstead Hall Braintree Road Greenstead Green Essex CO9 1SL Description of Development: Extension and refurbishment of existing redundant building to form 37-bed dementia unit with associated car parking and landscaping. Planning Application Ref: 22/02211/FUL Appellant's Name: Mr R Catchpole Planning Inspectorate Ref: APP/Z1510/W/24/3346178 Appeal Start Date: 24 June 2024. **To consider if the Parish Council wish to make a written representation to the hearing by the 29th July 2024. The hearing is by written representation only.** The Parish Council had raised 'No Objection' to this application in 2022 but it had been refused by BDC on the grounds of loss of heritage and ecology. It was proposed that a written representation be sent in expressing the Parish Council's support for the appellant in their appeal. Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Siggers. All agreed. **Action:** Clerk.

Item 3: Update on previous Planning applications. For information only.

24/00181/FUL Ayletts Farm. Change of use from agricultural land to equestrian. BDC had approved this application with a condition added regarding lighting.

78/24 Greenstead Hall: Update on meeting with BDC Environmental Health. A private meeting had been held at Gosfield Village Hall with John Meddings, Principal Licensing Officer from BDC Environmental Health. In attendance was the Chairman Cllr. Foster, Vice-Chair Cllr. Mason, Cllr Pleasance, and the Clerk. This was to discuss the recent Licence Application for the sale of alcohol at Greenstead Hall.

Mr Meddings explained how the process of granting a licence works, and the timescale. It was noted that unless there is an obvious reason a licence should not be granted they are nearly always granted. The decision will be made at a BDC Licensing Sub-committee hearing. The decision regarding the licence can be

appealed at The Magistrates Court. The Parish Council have objected to the application and will be attending the hearing to speak.

Cllr. Mason expressed his thanks to BDC Environmental Health with regards to the way they had managed the recent noise complaints regarding Greenstead Hall. He noted that there is no set decibel level for music at the site and so if anyone is disturbed by loud music at the Hall they should complain to Environmental Health who will come out and monitor it in your home and log the disturbance. It can take one complaint for the Licence to be revoked overnight. It is hoped that if the licence is granted it will be restricted to indoors and by timings.

79/24 Playing Field: . Item 1: Update on playing field and items raised on the 2024 RoSPA report. Cllr. Mason. Cllr. Mason had worked his way through all the red items in the report. The slide is now repaired, and he had received a quote of £310 to repaint it. Bird spikes were now on the swings. Cllr. Mason had found a lock, at a cost of £30 each, which will cause the pedestrian gates to close slowly. Cllr. Mason will monitor the roundabout and had asked the welder to look at the swing tube to see if he could cut the rusted part out and weld in a new part. Cllr. Mason had sourced some new signs at a cost of £10-15 to place in the Playing Field. These will display contact information and 'Use at your own risk.' The Chairman Cllr. Foster proposed the following: 'To accept the quote of £310 for painting the slide and to accept the cost of purchasing and installing 2 slow closing locks on the pedestrian gates at a cost of £30 each £60 in total as these are red items on the RoSPA Report. £370 in total.' Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Hambling. All agreed. **Action:** Cllr. Mason.

Item 2: To agree to purchase new football nets. Cllr. Hambling. A quote of £81.95 for 2 nets with clips had been distributed prior to the meeting. Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Mason. All agreed. **Action:** Cllr. Hambling.

This will mean all items which were raised on the RoSPA report will be completed.

Item 3: Update on grant applications for outdoor gym equipment. Clerk. The Clerk is in the process of applying for funding from Enover and can do so even in the absence of a third quote as long as it is noted who were approached for this third quote. **Action:** Clerk

80/24 Highways: Item1: Parish Councillors Highway issues. The Councillors suggested Raven Hall Road and Crocklands should be added to the pothole list requested by County Cllr. Siddall. Clerk to circulate a list of potential repairs to the Councillors. **Action:** Clerk.

Cllr. Siggers expressed concern regarding 35tonne lorries going down Star Stile Road and damaging the recently repaired road. He was asked to take photos and send to ECC Highways. **Action:** Cllr. Siggers.

Item 2: Update on approaching ECC Highways and request that Burtons Green Road be considered for 'Quiet Lane' status. Cllr. Todd. Deferred to September meeting. Cllr. Todd had been in email correspondence with County Cllr. Siddall regarding this matter. **Action:** To be placed on the September agenda.

Item 3: Update on Plaistow Green accident. Clerk. The tree seems to be ok. The Clerk had been in touch with the Parish Council's insurers and reported that this is known as a 'dead-end claim' as the cost being claimed for is less than our excess. The fingerpost is still down and needs to be reported to ECC Highways. **Action:** Clerk.

81/24 Burtons Green: Update on ownership of Burtons Green green. Cllr. Todd and Clerk. Deferred from May meeting. The Clerk had discovered that this small parcel of land belongs to Villa Farm. **Action:** To be placed on the September agenda.

82/24 Storage shed: Item 1: To consider purchasing a storage shed. Cllr. Hambling had found a firm in Dunmow who provided storage containers at a discounted rate to charities and local organisations. **Item 2: To consider where to locate it. Cllr. Hambling. Deferred from the May meeting.** Cllr. Hambling needed to talk to Cllr. Butler regarding the siting of the shed. **Action:** To be placed on the September agenda.

83/24 Training: Item 1. To agree to Cllr. Todd attending a Public Right of Way course to be held 13th November 2024 by the Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) at a cost of £80.00 + VAT. Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Mason. All agreed.

Item 2: To agree to send a councillor(s) on the Routine Playground Inspection Course to be held 3rd October 2024 by EALC at a cost of £200 + VAT per candidate. There is also a voluntary exam at an additional cost of £200 + VAT per candidate to become accredited. The Parish Council insurers now require or advise that weekly inspections of the playground equipment needed to be conducted. There is not a requirement to be trained but it may be helpful. The signs that are to be installed will allow people to report any problems. Concerns were expressed about who would be held legally responsible for any failures in the equipment once they have been checked. The individual doing the checking or the Parish Council. Cllr. Mason offered to go on the course. **Proposal:** To agree to send Cllr. Mason on the Routine Playground Inspection Course to be held 3rd October 2024 by EALC at a cost of £200 + VAT per candidate. Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Hambling. All agreed.

84/24 73/23 To confirm the Parish Council will not be taking part in the Salt bag partnership 2024/25. Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Hambling. All agreed.

85/24 Standing Orders: To agree to adopt the following recently updated Standing Orders:

- 1. Code of Conduct recently adopted by BDC.**
- 2. Model Financial Regulations 2024**

Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Hambling. All agreed. **Action:** Clerk to add to the website.

86/24 Penny Pots: Item 1: Phone Box to consider installing a lock. Cllr. Hambling had received an email complaint from a resident suggesting that children

had been using the phone box as a toilet. Cllr. Foster had visited the phone box and could see no evidence of this. It was decided to monitor the situation. **Item 2: To consider giving permission for residents to plant wildflowers around the post box. Cllr. Hambling.** The same residents wished to place wildflowers seeds in the grass. The Parish Council were happy for this to happen.

87/24 September meeting : To agree to move the 11th September meeting to the 18th September 2024. Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Mason. All agreed. **Action:** Clerk to send new date out.

88/24 Public comment. Residents expressed concern regarding Greenstead Hall and traffic and its Licence Application. It was noted that the Hall is advertised on Airbnb and if they receive any complaints they will drop the listing. A resident asked if a sign could go on the swings in the Playing Field regarding weight loading as they had seen adults and teenagers using them. Cllr. Mason will investigate the loading levels. The Village Hall had received a grant from Enovert to repair the hall. There was a discussion regarding grass cutting. A resident had historical documents which showed the Green at Burtons Green. They will hand them over to Cllr. Todd to be given to the Clerk.

89/24 To receive reports from outside bodies, training courses, Village Representatives, Parish Council Committees and Advisory Groups. Jean Hastings reported that there are now 4 Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators in the area.

90/24 Future agenda items. VE Day, Councillor Bursary. Items deferred to next agenda.

There being no further items to discuss. The meeting closed at 20:32.

Next Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 18th September 2024. 7.15pm Village Hall.

Signed.....

Chairman – Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council.

Date.....

Amanda Degnan

Amanda Degnan – Clerk to the Parish Council, C/O Greenstead Green Post Office, Greenstead Green Farm, Greenstead Green, CO9 1QY. 07782209224 . parishclerk@greensteadgreenpc.org.uk. WWW. greensteadgreenpc.org.uk